

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 4, as follows.

81 1. (previously amended) A mechanical connection comprising:
a sheet metal casing having a base part, a pair of side walls and a rear wall such that when assembled, each side wall adjoins one side of the rear wall, each side wall having a top rear corner in a region displaced from the base part and adjacent to where the side wall joins the rear wall when assembled, the base part, the pair of side walls and the rear wall all being formed from a single sheet-metal part;
a cutout formed in each of the side walls in the region of the top rear corner;
an angled section formed on the rear wall; and
hook-like extensions provided at sides of the angled section, which hook-like extensions snap into the cutouts of the side walls when the rear wall is swung into position.

2. (previously amended) The mechanical connection as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hook-like extensions are sloped such that the width increases from a front to a back of the hook-like extensions.

3. (previously amended) The mechanical connection as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hook-like extensions are formed integrally with the angled section

4. (currently amended) A casing comprising:
a base, a pair of side walls and a rear wall all formed from a single sheet of sheet-metal material, such that when assembled each side wall adjoins one side of the rear wall;
a cutout formed in each of the side walls in a region where the side wall adjoins the rear wall; and
a pair of hook-like extensions extending from the rear wall at positions corresponding to the cutouts such that when assembled, each hook-like extension snaps into a cutout.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 4 has been amended. Claims 1-4 are pending and under consideration.

The Amendment After Appeal changes the term "material" to --sheet-metal-- in claim 4. Independent claim 1 previously recited "sheet-metal." The Examiner has therefore considered this limitation. Further searching should not be required. By amending claim 4, the arguments relating to "sheet-metal" apply equally to both independent claims 1 and 4. Entry of the Amendment After Appeal is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: March 15, 2004

By: Mark J. Henry
Mark J. Henry
Registration No. 36,162

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501